

Serial No. 10/823,062
13 December 2005 Reply to
31 October 2005 Office Action

Amendments to the Specification

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

Please replace paragraph 24 with the following:

--With reference to FIG. 8, the pole assembly 40 includes a lower end 200 with a cap 210 fixed thereto. Spaced above the cap 210 is a stop 220 (with circular lip) circumferentially and longitudinally fixed to the circumference of the lower pole member 130. The high strength strap or connector 60 is made of 1 in. nylon webbing rated at 600 lb. breaking strength and is connected at one end portion to the lower pole member 130 between the stop 220 and the cap 210 and connected at an opposite end portion to a head 230 of ground anchor 70. The stop 220 prevents the strap 60 from sliding past the stop 220 on the pole assembly 40. In the embodiment shown, the ground anchor 70 is a plastic ground stake with a shaft 240. In alternative embodiments, one or more of the ground anchors 70 may have the same or a different construction/configuration from that shown in FIGS. 1-8 or may have the same or a different construction/configuration from the other ground anchors 70. For example, but not by way of limitation, the ground anchor 70 may be a ground auger. When inserted into or connected to the ground, the ground anchors 70 form anchor points with the ground. Further, in an alternative embodiment of the suspension system 20, especially where the ground is a hard surface (e.g., wood, cement, etc.), the ground anchors 70 may be replaced with permanent anchor points (e.g., in an inside environment with a hard floor, in an outside environment with a hard support surface).—

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Please replace paragraph 32 with the following:

-- Because the frameless portable suspension system 20 lacks a perimeter frame and only uses two telescoping pole assembly 40, one net 30, two adjustable length straps 50, two high strength straps 60, and anchors 70, the frameless portable suspension system 20 is very light-weight, very easy to assemble, and inexpensive to manufacture (especially in view of the relatively short pole length of the pole assemblies 40 compared to prior art nets/rebounders where perimeter pole frames or other pole-intensive assemblies were used). The frameless portable suspension system 20 also allows a user to easily vary the tension in the net 30 in both vertical and horizontal directions while the net 30 is under load and keeps the net 30 in a vertical plane perpendicular to the ground. The frameless portable suspension system 20 absorbs the blow of large forces such as those produced by a high-velocity soccer ball or a player accidentally running into the net 30 while also exhibiting exceptional rebounding properties.--